

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. In the second Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 7-13 and indicated that claims 1-6 and 14-26 were allowed. Applicants have amended claims 7-13 so that they depend directly or indirectly from allowed claim 14 and respectfully request that the Examiner enter this amendment, which is believed to make all claims allowable.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application considering the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(e)/103

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 7-9 and 11-13 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,506,720 to Collier, Jr. The Examiner rejected claim 10 as being unpatentable over Collier in view of design choice.

As stated in Applicants previous response, Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the Examiner's rejection for the reasons of record. However, based on the indication of allowed claims 1-6 and 14-26, Applicants have amended claims 7-13 to depend directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 14 to advance prosecution and place this case in condition for allowance. As such, the rejections of claims 7-13 are believed to be obviated.

Summary

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's rejections and advance prosecution of this application. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. No additional fee is believed to be due as a result of the filing of this paper. However, please charge Deposit Account 06-1510 (Ford Global Technologies, LLC) for any required fee(s) as authorized by the original transmittal letter in this application.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues or requirements that may be necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Bir
Registration No. 38,383

Date: February 28, 2006

Bir Law, PLC
45094 Middlebury Ct.
Canton, MI 48188-3215
734-981-5646
Fax: (734) 468-4257